

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01 SP-02
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R 281727Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7036

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN EGEN XY US ML

SUBJECT: ECOWAS

REF: STATE 159681

RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO PARA 2 OF REFTTEL:

A. WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS ASSURE US THAT MALI IS FULLY COMMITTED TO MAKING ECOWAS SUCCEED EVEN THOUGH THEY CONSIDER ECOWAS TO BE OF LESSER INTEREST THAN CEAO (COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST). THEY ALSO ASSURE US THAT ADEQUATE TIME AND RESOURCES WILL BE DEVOTED TO ECOWAS.

B. NEVERTHELESS, MALIAN INTEREST IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROUPINGS IS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON CEAO RATHER THAN ON ECOWAS. FINANCE MINISTER HAS STATED IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION THAT HE CONSIDERS ECOWAS TO BE UNWIELDLY AND THAT HE IS CONCERNED BY PROBLEMS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ANGLOPHONE AND FRANCOPHONE STATES. MALIAN OFFICIALS ARE CAUTIOUS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF ECOWAS.

C. MALIANS REGARD THE LACK OF A COMMON CURRENCY AS ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS WHICH COULD DELAY ECOWAS ABILITY TO MEET ITS GOALS ON TIME.

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D. IN MOST CASES TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATIONS LINKS DO NOT EXIST AND MUST BE CREATED BEFORE INTRA-ECOWAS TRADE CAN INCREASE.

E. THE MALIAN TRADE STRUCTURE IS LARGELY COMPETITIVE WITH THAT OF OTHER MEMBERS OF ECOWAS.

F. MALIAN DEVELOPMENT PLANS ARE DESIGNED TO INCREASE COMPLEMENTARITY WITHIN THE CEAO CONTEXT. THIS PROBLEM HAS NOT YET BEEN ADDRESSED WITHIN THE ECOWAS CONTEXT.

G. GOM ASSURES US THAT IT EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO MEET ITS FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO ECOWAS.

H. IN 1975 43.1 PERCENT OF MALIAN GOVERNMENT REVENUE WAS DERIVED FROM TRADE-RELATED TAXES.

I. IN THE 15-YEAR PERIOD ENVISIONED BY ECOWAS TO FORM THE CUSTOMS UNION, THE GOM FEELS THAT IF SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTRA-ECOWAS TRADE DEVELOP, THE FUND COULD FULFILL ITS FUNCTION. CONSIDERING THE UNBALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION, THE EMBASSY IS LESS OPTIMISTIC.

J. CONSIDERING ECOWAS PROGRESS TO DATE, THE EMBASSY IS SOMEWHAT DUBIOUS ABOUT ITS ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THE SCHEDULE TO BECOME A FREE TRADE AREA AND LATER A CUSTOMS UNION.

K. ECOWAS WILL ATTRACT MORE INVESTMENT TO THE AREA AND INCREASE TRADE, WHICH MAY HELP US TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

L. EMBASSY BELIEVES THE FUND FOR COOPERATION, COMPENSATION AND DEVELOPMENT COULD BE USED AS A REGIONAL VEHICLE FOR AID TO WEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFRICA REGION.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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